



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/646,107	08/22/2003	Manat Maolinbay	GEMS 135780 (3787)	8439

7590 05/17/2005
Tracey R. Loughlin
DOUGHERTY, CLEMENTS & HOFER
Suite 300
1901 Roxborough Road
Charlotte, NC 28211

EXAMINER

GABOR, OTILIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2878

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Handwritten initials: \$✓EK

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/646,107

Applicant(s)

MAOLINBAY ET AL.

Examiner

Otilia Gabor

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 August 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5, 7-10, 13-15 and 18-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 August 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 08/22/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: There are spelling errors throughout the specification; the Applicant is required to review and make appropriate corrections (see page 9, line 2 at least).

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. Figure 4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 2-5, 7-10, 13-15, 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. Claims 2-4, 7-9, 13-15, 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted steps are: the steps by which the electrical signal is sampled in order to eliminate the need for FET-off settling time before sampling (i.e., claiming the "manner in which..." without indicating the actual steps included in this "manner" is indefinite); the method steps by which the lag is reduced (i.e., claiming the "manner that reduces lag" without indicating the actual steps by which this is done is indefinite); the specific method steps by which the sampling method is allowed to have frame rates in excess of 30 frames per second (i.e., claiming a "sampling method that allows frame rate" without disclosing the specific method step by which this is achieved is indefinite).

6. The term "in a manner that eliminates the need" in claims 2 and 7 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The claim should specify exactly how this need is to be eliminated.

7. The term "in a manner that reduces lag" in claims 3 and 8 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in

the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The claim should specify exactly how this lag is reduced.

8. The term "the sampling method allows...to be achieved" or "are achievable" in claims 4, 9, 14 and 19 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The claim should specify exactly how the claimed frame rate is achieved.

9. The term "the sampling method requires less line time than conventional amorphous silicon flat panel X-ray detector sampling methods" in claims 5, and 15, and the term "the system requires less line time than required in conventional amorphous silicon flat panel X-ray detectors" in claims 10 and 20 are relative terms which renders the claims indefinite. The terms are not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The claim should disclose specifically a claimed line time instead of comparing it to a conventional time line.

10. The term "as compared to the lag time in conventional amorphous silicon flat panel x-ray detector" in claims 3, 8, 13 and 18 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would

not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention. The claim should disclose specifically a claimed lag instead of comparing it to a conventional lag.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 16, 17 are allowed.
12. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: There is no evidence in the prior art searched of a system and method for reducing readout time and lag in an amorphous flat panel X-ray detector as claimed, namely, that the sampling of the electrical signal from the detector is done while the field effect transistor is activated, the reset switch is activated after the signal has been sampled and while the field effect transistor is still activated, and the deactivation of the field effect transistor is done while the reset switch is still activated (i.e., allowing the RESET-on period to overlap both the FET-on period and the FET-off period for a predetermined period of time).

Conclusion

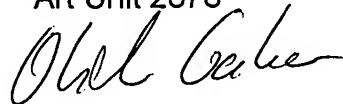
13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Orava et al. (5,812,191).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Otilia Gabor whose telephone number is 571-272-2435. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Thursday-Friday between 9am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Otilia Gabor
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2878

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Otilia Gabor', is written over the printed name and title.